

By B. Burroughs etc. (1)

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W.T. 1320. 3/16

TO ALL

3/31

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# Dear Friends & Brethren

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The Everlasting TRUTH and COVENANT of the  
ALMIGHTY JEHOVAH, blessed for evermore.

**W**E the Prisoners of the Lord, and for the Testimony of Christ Jesus, do bear in our remembrance with dearest Salutation of perfect Love, all our suffering Brethren every where, and also the whole Flock of our Fathers tender Love, whom he hath elected and chosen in his own secret Counsel before the World began; Dearly and well beloved, our very Souls this day, are deeply affected with the Cause of God, and our persons at this time are engaged in these Bonds, for the Testimony of the same; and truly, in Soul, Body, and Spirit, are we offered up to the perpetual loss of all, that the Name of the Lord; and his saving Truth, may be testified unto, in faithfulness unto all the World; and in the Lord our hearts are resolved in the confidence of his Spirit, to suffer the greatest of Afflictions and Persecutions, rather than forfeit or lose one grain of this so blessed a Testimony now trusted with us, and for which, we now suffer these Bonds: And unto faithfulness herein, we find that the Lord our God, daily increaseth our Strength and Boldness, our Patience and Long-Suffering, and doubleth his Spirit of Power and Wisdom upon us, that we may never faint in Tryal; and we labour to be armed in our inward Man, with whatsoever may uphold us, and defend us in this day of our Afflictions; even that our faith and patience, our holiness and meekness, our long-suffering and love to enemies; and all Heavenly Virtues may be compleated in us, and possessed of us, till our God take Vengeance upon the Wrath of our Adversaries, and deliver his (now) poor despised and oppressed People; for these Virtues are the armour with which we delight to be clothed; these are our Weapons with which we chuse to be defended.

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and this must be our final *Victory*, when the *Faith* and *Patience*, the *Meekness* and *long-suffering*, and *Heavenly Virtues* of *Christ Jesus* in us, have exceeded in *measure*, and *superabounded* in *effect*, all the *unbelief* and *impatience*, the *enmity* and *ungodliness*, in all that hate us ; *Love* shall overcome *Wrath* and *Envy* , *Patience* shall subdue *rigorous Persecutors*, and *hateful Workers* ; the very *God* that dwells with us, shall condemn and confound the *wicked One*, with all his *Might*, and *Power*, and *Malice*, and *Persecution*, cruel *Imposition* on tender *Consciences*, and *Oppression* and *Injustice* shall be no more : And this is that *Victory*, for which we *spiritually War* ; and these and no other are the *Weapons* with which we do contend ; and the *Cause* is *God's* in which we are *ingaged*, and for which we *suffer* this present day.

Brethren, we hope ye are all *like-minded* with us, and that this same *Cause* of *God*, his *Truth* and *Righteousness* is *fixed* before you, and is your *aim* and *mark*, and that it is alike *dear* and *precious* in your eye, and that ye are *armed* with the same *Armour* of *God's* heavenly *Virtues* ; It's the *breathings* of our *Life* to the *Father*, that the whole *Church* of *Christ*, and every *Member* thereof may be kept *faithful*, to hold forth the *holy Testimony* of *Jesus*, by *suffering* in this great *Day* of *Trial*. The *Testimony* of which, we have *heard* and *learned*, *believed* and *received*, from *God* the *Father* into all our hearts, is so *precious* to us, in its evidence of *Peace*, and *Comfort*, and *Justification*, and *Salvation*, in *Eternal Life* in our *inward man*, that we compare no *Afflictions*, nor *present Sufferings* of our *outward man*, to the *Price* and *Virtue* thereof. For we can *say* in the *verity* of our *Souls*, however it shall go with our *outward Man*, in respect of *Tribulations*, and *Persecutions*, yet in our *inward Man*, we possess the *Peace*, *Comfort*, and *Salvation* of the *Everlasting God*, and to bear forth the *Testimony* of this in our age to the *World*, even of that *Love* and *Life*, *Mercy*, *Justification*, and *Salvation* which we have received, we can forgoe *Liberty*, *Life*, and *all* : For this is our *duty* to which we are *called*, and the *end* for which we were *born*, to bear *witness* to the *Truth*, and for the *holding forth* of this *witness*, we are given up in *Soul*, *Body*, and *Spirit*, to *suffer the loss* of *all*, rather than to *lose* this *Testimony-bearing* to the view of the world.

Wherefore, we *beseech* and *exhort* all of you, that have tasted of the *loving kindness* of our *God*, That ye be *faithful* and *valiant* this day in the *Cause* of *God* ; not *fearing* the *fury* of the *ungodly*, nor the *threats* of *enemies*, nor the *terrors* of this *world*, nor *seeking* to *save* your own *lives* ; but in the *Faith* and *Patience*, pressing forward  
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in the race of Righteousness, till *Mercy, Peace, Justice, and true Judgement*, run down as a stream, willing to suffer the loss of all, that *Truth and Righteousness* may live upon earth, and the *Worship* of the true God be exalted, and all the contrary overturned and this is the reward of all the *Saints Afflictions*. Be faithful in your *Trials*, let *Estates, Relations, Life, and all go*, rather than the Cause of *Truth and Righteousness* be diminished of its Glory, by the *unfaithfulness* of any this day. Surely our hearts are zealous for this matter, and we are pressed in Spirit, to encourage all the *Lord's People* to put on all holy Confidence in this day, and to cast away all *unbelief, doubtings and fears* of this *World*, and to maintain the *Truth of God's Worship* in the *assemblies* of his people together, in the strength and power of the *Lord Jesus Christ*; even to live in it, and to dye for it, to enjoy God's pure *Worship*, and to suffer the loss of all, if called thereunto.

We know you are not ignorant concerning this Cause of God, which we thus affect, and exhort you to be faithful in; It's no other than the *Testimony* of a pure Conscience towards our Creator, and that every Person should follow Christ, and obey him, and walk in the *Light and Life* of his Spirit, which he hath revealed in the *Heart*; and that God should be feared and worshipped in a clean Conscience, and that the *Salvation* of God may be testified of: This and no other is the Cause of God, in which our *Souls and Bodies* are engaged, we know no Cause upon earth, worth our *Afflictions and Sufferings*, nor for which we will contend with any, save for the *Salvation of God*, and that his *Justice and Mercy, his Truth and Righteousness, his Way and Worship* may be Exalted upon Earth, and all the contrary subdued by his mighty Power. This is the very Cause compared, to which our mortality is not to be accounted, even that we may behold God's *Salvation* going forth in the *Testimony* of it to all Nations; and that *Nations and Peoples*, may enjoy *Justice and Truth, Liberty and Freedom*, in the pure worship of the living God; This is the Cause that must live, [the Lord hath spoken it] though for it we may die; for our *All* is adventured upon the same.

But whilst our hearts are pouring forth daily *Prayers* towards God, and *Exhortations* towards you, that you may be faithful to give publick *Testimony* to the *Name, Truth, and Salvation* of God; our *Souls* also desire that you all may eat and drink of that *spiritual Food*, which will cause your inward man to grow, and that your own hearts may be kept pure and undefiled in his presence, and that the *Seed of Life*, with the

*Fruits and Blessings* thereof may fill your own Souls; that while you are striving by *Patience* and *Long-Suffering* against your *outward Enemies*, no *inward Enemy* of evil *Lusts* or *Affections*, *Strife* or *Divisions*, or any thing of this *World* may enter into your bosoms to defile you.

*Dearly Beloved*, alwayes have a *special regard* unto your *standing* as to *God-ward*, and what increase of *Life*, *Love*, *Peace* and *Comfort*, ye daily receive in your spiritual Man; knowing, that by the *inward virtue* of the Father's *presence*, the *Peace*, and *Joy* of God in your *inward man* daily received from him, by that must you stand in *Strength* and *Dominion* against all *Enemies within* and *without*. Therefore, feel the *Seed of God*, and its *growth* and *increase* in your own hearts, that you may have perfect *Peace* and *Union* with God in Spirit, while ye are bearing *publick Testimony*, by doing or suffering for his *Truth* and *Name*.

And *Brethren*, our *Hearts* and *Souls* reach unto, and *dearly Salute* you all; for while we remember the *Lord* and his *Goodness* unto us, we cannot forget you, no not the *least Babe* and *little One* amongst you all; for what are we, or you, or all of us together, joyntly, or apart, but what we are in his *Life*, *Love* and *Peace*, that endureth for ever? whose *Mercies*, *Glory*, *Riches* and *Goodness*, as so many sparkling *Diamonds* and *Jems* of value, adorn our *Crown* and make it *Glorious*, and every one doth shine with *Lustre* and *Beauty* in the eyes of all that behold us; and whilst we are so Adorned, may we not say, our *cloathings* are *white* and *fine*, such as are in *Kings Houses*, and our *attire* no other than what becometh *Princes*? and what ever we have been, it matters not, except to set forth the *favour* and *goodness* of him, that hath so raised us from the *Dunghil* amongst the *Beggars*, to sit upon *Thrones* in *Glory* with *Princes*? and to shew how the *Angels of God's presence* have *saved* and taken us from our *begging State*, at the *Rich man's Gate*, like so many *Lazaruses*, bruised and wounded, from head to foot, and carried us into *Abraham's bosom*, where we are at Rest, praising our God, and our *King* of *Riches* and *Mercy* for ever.

*Dear Friends*, we write unto you all, that you may partake with us of the same *Life*, *Glory*, *Rest* and *Peace*, and not only *Drops* and *Sprinklings* of the same, but *full measure*, *heaped up*, and *running over*. For you are our *Witnesses*, that we, with the rest of our *Faithful Brethren*, have not withheld from you, the whole *Counsel of God* revealed to us, and in us, according to the *good pleasure* of our *Lord* and *Master*; neither have we kept back from declaring to you his *Mind*, and the *Mysteries* of his *Kingdom*, yea, his *hidden Mysteries*, (which have been hid in God since



since the world began ) and that *in season, and out of season, at all times and places*, as he hath given us opportunities, and required us so to do ; and that not in words, which man's Wisdom reacheth, ( lest thereby we should make void the Cross of Christ ) but in plainness and simplicity, that God's Witness in every Conscience might answer us, and we unto every Conscience might be made manifest in God's sight, as we know we are this day, and we have our reward from the Lord of the Harvest that sent us forth ; and this adds to our comfort in this day, that we were faithful unto our God in what he committed to our charge : And now, what is ours, and our Brethrens reward, and Crown of rejoicing, but this, That you stand faithful in this time of Trial : for you know we have not been like unto those who have begotten into the airy Spirit, that so you might be alwayes kept in the uncertainty, ever learning, but never get ability to learn and perform what you have been taught ; for what we have received from Christ, by virtue of his Resurrection and Affection, is perfect, and hath been Ministred unto you, for the perfecting of you all, with the rest of the Sanctified ones in Christ Jesus, until you all come to a perfect Man in Christ, even unto the fulness of the measure of the statute of Christ : For which we pray, and desire of our God and Father for you all.

Let your Meetings be in God's Fear and Counsel ; as at other times, never heeding what man can do unto you ; but still be you all followers of that which is good, and then, who can, or shall harm you ? Keep in the Love to, and Unity with that of God in all : Let the witness of God in all answer your Words and Actions, rendering to none evil for evil, but overcoming the evil with the good ; so shall you be known to be the Servants of the Living God, and followers of the Lamb as dear Children. And be terrified in nothing, as from any of the Sons of men, that can befall you ; for all your hairs are numbred, and not one shall fall, without Gods Providence ; neither shall the Wrath of the Wicked be unbounded ; but what ever turns not to his praise, that he will restrain, and the Day of your Deliverance hastneth : only look not you out, but keep close unto the Lord, with your eyes only towards him, and not upon, or unto any temporal, or visible thing ; but alone unto the Lord God of Life, and unto the measure of himself made manifest in your own hearts ; for unto that you were directed at the Beginning, and in it is your safety and preservation unto the end.

And Dear Brethren, the Lord God Almighty, who is our alone Salvation, having laid the thoughts of the Cause of our Sufferings near unto

unto the *Secrets* of his *own Soul*, uttereth his *Voice* out of *Sion*, to you *his Children*, in his *City Jerusalem*, saying, *Stand up ye Babes* of my  *blessings*, and you *Sons and Daughters* of my *Love*, *Gird, Gird on Strength* in this day of my *Battle*; for loe, *My Banner* is over you, *My Standard* is with you, *My Ensign* is displaid amongst you, and *My Everlasting Power*, and *Omnipotency* attends you; and it shall *not fail you*. I will *not leave you* in the day of *Adversity*, nor *forsake you* in the time of *Captivity*; for I have *Chosen you*, I have *Called you*, I have *Purchased you*, after the travail of my *Soul* for you; And *Blood*, even the *Everlasting Blood* of the *Covenant* of my *Life* was paid as a *Ransome* for you; and now you are no more *your own*, but *mine*; and I cannot be *hid*, nor *separated from you*, but as *I am faithful*, I will be *with you*; as you have had me your *God* in all your *Tribulations*, and *Sufferings*, wherein I did bear both you, and your *Griefs*, and all your *Afflictions* in the yearning *Bowels* of my *Tenderness*; which yet I will *Break*, I will *Break*, I will *Break*, more *infinitely* open unto you, which shall *melt*, and *dissolve you*, and make you *streams* to me, as I am in *flaming Streams* of *Love* and *Life* towards you; I will *reach you* in your *Holes*; *Bolts*, nor *Bars of Brass*, or *Iron*, nor *Walls* like *Mountains* shall shut me from you; but in your *Denns* and *Dungeons* I will come in *among you*, and walk in the *midst of you*, and you shall know that I am the *Comforter* of your *Hearts*, and the *Rejoycer* and *Gladder* of your *Spirits*, in all the times of your *needs*: And whilst the *Yoke* is upon your *Necks*, and the *oppressive Burdens* upon your *Backs*, and I bearing both you, and your *Burdens* over the *Raging Seas*, that are *angry* at my *Voice*, and *troubled* at the *Breathings* of my *Life*: I will *trouble the Host* of the *Philistines*, their *Horses* shall *fail them*, their *Chariots* shall *not stand* in any *stead* unto them, for I will *break the Wheels* and the *Axeltrees*, and they shall *fall*, they shall *fall*, they shall *fall*; I the *Jehovah* of *Israel*, the *mighty God* of little *Jacob* have *spoken it*, and it shall *surely come to pass*, and you shall be *delivered* by the hand of my *Power*, saith the *Lord*. And therefore *sing you Lambs*, and *rejoyce you my little tender Babes* in that I have *Travelled* for you, and *born and brought you forth* unto the day of my *Glory*, in the *Glory* and the *Excellency* thereof, to witness my *Name* of *Power*, which will *scatter* all the *chaff* that is *heaped up* as *Mountains* against you; that you, whom I have *planted*, may *prosper* as a *fruitful Vineyard*, that the *abundance* of the *Fruits of blessedness*, in the *power* of my *Righteousness*, may be *brought forth* in you, to your *Joy*, and *mine Honour*, even for ever.



Ah Brethren, our very *Hearts* and *Souls* are overcome, and ravished, whilst we consider the *endless Love*, and *everlasting Riches* of the *favours* and *mercies* of our FATHER towards us; and what he hath ready in his *Hand* to deal *bountifully* unto us; yet but a little, but a little, and he will give it, and make the *empriest Vessel* as an *over-running River*, whose Banks cannot contain the Streams for fulness. It is his *Love*, his *Love*, even his *endless everlasting Love* that *over-powers* us, which is not containable *within us*, but must *run*, and *flow*, from the Movings of the great *Oceans*, as the *swiftest streams* into your *tender bosomes*, that you may be refreshed *in us*, in which the answer will return into our *Bowels*, and our *Joy* will thereby be *augmented*, and *increased*: And we trust in the pure *living sense* of all, our *Hearts* shall be alwayes full of the *praise* of our God, who in all his *blessed Works*, is worthy of all *Honour*, and *everlasting Thanksgiving*, and *Glory*, even of us, and all his *Saints* and *Children* for evermore; who, *in him*, are *yours* to serve, both *Him*, and *You*, in *doing* and *suffering*, whatsoever is his good pleasure concerning us: And in him, *Everlasting Blessings* and *Peace* be multiplied to you all, Amen.

Newgate Prison, the 12th.  
 of the 4th. Month 1662.

E. B. J. C. J. P.

The Cogitations of my Heart have been many, deep, and ponderous, some months, weeks and dayes, concerning his People, which he hath raised to bear TESTIMONY unto his Name, in this the day of his Power: And Intercession hath been made often for them to the Lord, and a Patient waiting to know his Mind concerning them for the time to come, which often I received Satisfaction in, as to my self; but yet still something I was drawn by the Lord to wait for, that I might comfort and strengthen his Flock by an assured Testimony. And while I was waiting out of all visible things, and quite out of the World, in my Spirit, and my heart upon nothing but the Living God, the Lord opened the springs of the great Deep, and overflowed my whole Heart with Life and Love, and my Eyes were as a Fountain, because of Tears of Joy, because of his Heritage: of whom he shewed me, and spake unto me, in a full fresh living Power, and a holy full Testimony; so that my heart was ravished therewith, with Joy unspeakable, and I was out of the Body with God, in his Heavenly Paradise; where I saw, and felt things unutterable, beyond all demonstration, or speech. At last the Life closed with my Understanding, and my Spirit listened

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unto him ; And the Everlasting God said, *Shall I hide any thing from them that seek my face in Righteousness ? Nay, I will manifest it to them that fear me : I will speak, & thou listen, and publish it amongst all my People, that they may be Comforted, and thou Satisfied.* And thus said the Living God of Heaven and Earth.

Upon the 28th. of the 3d. Month, 1662.

The *Sun* shall leave its shining *Brightness*, and cease to give Light to the World ; and the *Moon* shall be altogether *Darkness*, and give no Light unto the Night ; the *Stars* shall cease to know their Office, or Place, My *Covenant* with Day and Night, Times and Seasons shall sooner come to an end, than the *Covenant* I have made with this People ( into which they are entred with me ) shall end, or be broken, and my Word is unchangeable ; yea, though the powers of *Darkness*, and *Hell*, combine against them, and the *Fangs of Death* open its mouth, yet I will deliver them, and lead them through all ; I will Confound their Enemies, as I did in *Jacob* ; and Scatter them, as I did in *Israel*, in the dayes of Old ; I will take their Enemies, and I will hurle them hither, and thither from me, even as Stones are hurled out of a Sling ; and the memorial of this Nation, which is holy unto me, shall never be rooted out, but shall Live through Ages, as A cloud of Witnesses in Generations to come. I have brought them to the Birth, I have brought them forth, I have swaddled them, and they are Mine ; I will nourish them, and carry them as on Eagles Wings ; and though Clouds gather against them, I will make my way through them, and though Darkness gather together on a heap, and Tempests gender, I will Scatter them as with an East Wind, and Nations shall know they are my Inheritance, and they shall know I am the Living God, who will plead their Cause withal that Rise up in Opposition against them.

These Words are Holy, faithful, Good, and True. Blessed are they that Hear and Believe unto the End. And because of them no strength was left in me for a while ; but at last, my Heart was filled with Joy, even as when the Ark of God was brought from the house of *Obed Edom*, when *David* danced before it for Gladness, and *Israel* shouted for Joy.

*Fran. Howgill.*

**T H E E N D.**